GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:225
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
MISSION TO OUTER SPACE
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has finally decided not to send a manned mission to the outer space;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation is focussing on sending an unmanned spacecraft to the moon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target fixed therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER O STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE):

(a)&(b) Till date India has no plans for undertaking a manned space mission. Unmanned exploration of moon by sending orbiting spacecraft will enhance the understanding of moon and also will result in technology advancement for the future space programme.

(c),(d)&(e) Yes, Sir. The National Task Team, set up to study a proposal for an unmanned spacecraft mission to moon, has submitted its report. The proposal is to send an unmanned spacecraft to orbit the moon at a height of 100 km. The spacecraft will be launched using India`s own launch vehicle. The mission is planned for the scientific objective of high-resolution remote sensing of the lunar surface in visible, near-infrared, low-energy X-ray and high-energy X-ray spectra. The mission can be realised in about 5 years after the approval of the project.